

TDM: A CONVERSATION WITH ATTORNEYS

TEAM DECISION MAKING IS...

- An informal, social work-driven process through which a public child welfare agency fulfills its legal mandate to make decisions regarding placement of children under its jurisdiction
- A process which honors consensus as the ultimate goal
- A forum which brings together family members, their support groups, agency staff, neighborhood representatives and service providers to participate in decision making
- An opportunity to thoroughly examine a family's strengths and needs while assessing the risk factors which impact decision making around placement
- A meeting which supports careful examination of questions having a legal impact, including reasonable efforts and concurrent planning.
- A forum which provides solid preparation for social workers who will present the agency's recommendations for placement and custody in Court.

TEAM DECISION MAKING IS NOT...

- A process which is mandated, either by statute or administrative rule
- A forum for pretrial discovery
- Formal in tone or process
- A meeting which promises complete confidentiality to any participant
- Adversarial

